

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY 7/22/75 EXT. 29892

APPROVED BY S/CCT - ROBERT A. FEAREY

AF/E - MR. COOTE

S/S -FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172997

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: CISCO TWO: CAMPBELL LETTER

1. CAMPBELL'S FAMILY HAS PROVIDED DEPARTMENT LAST LETTER SENT HOME BY STEVE CAMPBELL PRIOR TO HIS ABDUCTION. LETTER DATED JUNE 12 AND THIRTEEN HANDWRITTEN PAGES LONG. RELEVANT EXCERPTS OF LETTER ARE QUOTED BELOW. FAMILY STATED THIS WAS FIRST TIME CAMPBELL HAD EVER MENTIONED POLITICS IN ANY COMMUNICATIONS WITH THEM.

2. LETTER SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, AND OF COURSE SHOULD NOT BE SHOWN TO EPMG. POSSIBLY CAMPBELL'S VIEWPOINT REFLECTED IN LETTER MAY HAVE BEEN CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN KIDNAPPING (LOCAL EMPLOYEES COULD HAVE INFORMED ELF OF CAMPBELL'S POLITICAL VIEWS), ALTHOUGH THIS IS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE. AT MINIMUM, CAMPBELL'S SYMPATHY FOR ERITREANS SHOULD DO HIM NO HARM.

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3. QUOTE: FOUR VILLAGES OWN THE PROPERTY THAT THE SITE IS

LOCATED ON. I'VE COME TO REALLY APPRECIATE THE PEOPLE HERE. I HAVE GOTTEN CLOSER TO THE SIMPLER FOLK LATELY. I THOUGHT THAT THE PEOPLE OF SPAIN WERE SO 'SYMPATICO' BUT THE ERITREAN PEOPLE ARE WONDERFUL. RIGHT NOW THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR THEIR FREEDOM AGAIN (GO, GO ERITREA) BUT THEY ARE THE

SAME GENTLE AND HUMBLE SELVES. THE WAR HERE GOES SLOW IN ASMARA BUT THE DISTANT HILLS AND DOWN THE MOUNTAIN (WE ARE ON TOP OF A BIG HILL HERE) THE FIGHTING CONTINUES. WE HAVE SPORADIC FIRE AT NIGHT (CURFEW AT 7:30 P.M.) AND JUST WAITING FOR THE 'FINAL PUSH.' BEEN GETTING INVOLVED ON MY OWN IN THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE HERE AND ON THE SIDE OF ERITREA AND NOT ETHIOPIA. NOT BECAUSE I AM IN ERITREA AND NOT ETHIOPIA (SOUTH) BUT BECAUSE I SEE THIS SIDE MORE CLEARLY. (ANYWAY, I HOPE I CAN SEPARATE THE TRUTH.) SINCE I'VE NEVER BEEN TO WAR, THIS IS ALL I'VE TASTED. I WAS AMAZED TO FIND MYSELF CALM AND WORRIED ABOUT THOSE LESS FORTUNATE. MY HOUSEGIRL GOT PRETTY SHOOK AND THE NIGHT GUARD HAS BEEN THROUGH WARS IN ETHIOPIA FOR 25 YEARS. IT'S WEIRD TO HAVE TO JUST SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR THE OUT-COME WHILE SO MANY ARE BEING SENT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. HOWEVER, THE LOCAL FORCES HAVEN'T CONTACTED ME YET.///

4. PLEASE ASK ONE OF THOSE THERE POLITICIANS IN CALIFORNIA (I REFUSE TO BECOME INVOLVED NOW) WHY THEY GAVE THE ETHIOPIANS (SIC) ALL THOSE MILLIONS. ALLIES..?? HELL. SOON WHEN THEY TELL US TO LEAVE OR KILL US WE'LL SEE ANOTHER CAMBODIA AND VIET NAM AND LOSE ANOTHER GAMBLE. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, DOCUMENTS, TEXT, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE172997
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: 22/75 EXT. 29892
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850033-1948
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750729/aaaaazvc.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CISCO TWO: CAMPBELL LETTER
TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET, US, (CAMPBELL, STEVE)
To: ADDIS ABABA ASMARA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006